

UNUSUAL FOREIGN SERVICE (continued)

Honourable Pierre Trudeau bade them Bon Voyage — the Honourable Gerry Weiner, Minister of State for Immigration, worked closely with the project — the former Minister of State for Youth, André Champagne, addressed the graduating class in June 1986 — the Right Honourable Joe Clark corresponded with the participants — External Affairs was, in fact, fantastic. Mr. Davies remembers fondly the assistance of Ann Cronin-Cossette, Second Secretary of the Kenya High Commission, who assisted him during a hasty departure from Moroni back to Nairobi where Mr. Davies discovered that he was 24 hours early and without his tickets for Amsterdam and Montreal. For Mr. Davies, being early for anything was "unusual", the

ticket problem "unexpected" and the tremendous assistance appreciated.

Students' logs from Class Afloat report unusual support from the Canadian Foreign Service, C.U.S.O., C.I.D.A., and the F.A.O. They report an outstanding job and endorse continued support for assistance in developing nations.

1985-86 was International Youth Year — "participation, development, and peace", themes realized through the efforts of West Island College — Class Afloat, efforts which have easily placed Canada at the international forefront of meaningful educational programmes.

No one will find it "unusual" that Mr. Davies is busy once again in his

Ottawa office, planning Class Afloat '87-88. The Pogoria is back and the Pacific nations the educational target. Not "unexpectedly" the demand for space in this programme is overwhelming □

Victoria Burin

Note: Freelance writer Victoria Burin lives in Montreal and plans to accompany Class Afloat students during the 1987-88 school year. Those interested in West Island College or Class Afloat may address the school by writing to:

The Headmaster
100 Dufferin Road
Ottawa, Ontario
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□ SCHOOL AND OTHER THINGS □

Just when you thought it was safe to sit down and relax, it's posting time again. The children are finally settled in their school and doing great. They finally found the "friends" you promised them they'd find. A calm has settled in around the dinner table, normalcy has taken over. You know too well that creeping anticipation of change that will force its way into your life and the life of your children. And let us not forget the children! Their needs, their opinions, their schools! It doesn't matter in what direction you're going — Ottawa or abroad. It's always the same concern; what do we do for schooling? You can deal with this question in many different ways. Some of us get the information we need from pestering the bureaucracy, some come by certain facts only by mistakes. A lot of us let nature take its course. But who do you really turn to? Probably your best

source would be the Posting Services and Community Liaison Division Education Officer in Ottawa. They have all the information regarding most schools used by rotational personnel abroad. And if they cannot provide the information you need, they will direct you to an appropriate source. Also available at all posts are two booklets issued by the Department on educational systems and schools in the Ottawa-Hull region:

EDUCATION REPORT National Capital Region gives detailed information on all the available public and private schools in the region;

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES in the National Capital deals with issues of all facilities available for the gifted and the handicapped in the region. A list of all the schools used by our children in Ottawa is currently in the making. This will assist prospective returnees with easy reference and access to informa-

tion one might need concerning a particular school. This kind of networking can be invaluable and reduce the run-around sometimes experienced searching for the right information.

The hardest part during the transition time is getting good sound information on education. Such information will reduce any frustration, so don't hesitate to contact the Education Officer in the Posting Services and Community Liaison Division for the facts you need.

Don't despair, you are not alone. If you do experience some difficulty, share it with the Education Committee. Your experience could benefit someone else □

Jenny Roberge
Education Committee
FSCA